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File 50

CLASSIFICATION <del>SECRET-CONTROL/US OFFICIAL</del>		25X1
COUNTRY Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC 23rd Infantry Battalion		
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT		
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED 14 June 1950	
REFERENCES		
PAGES 4	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS		
<b>RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY</b>		
25X1		

General

1. The Pavla Orsaka Hviezdoslava Inf Bn, [redacted] 25X1  
is subordinated to the Gusice (N 50/Q 28) infantry  
division commanded by General Lomsky, (fnu). (1) The  
following other units were also subordinate to the  
division: Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27) infantry unit,  
[redacted] commanded by Colonel Jiracek, (fnu);  
Klatovy (N 50/L 00) unit [redacted] and a 25X1  
Vimperk (N 50/Q 46) unit. (2).
2. The battalion is quartered on the southeast border of  
Nyrsko (N 50/U 99), and in the castle of Bystrice  
(N 50/U 99).
3. The battalion was commanded by Major Kocian, (fnu),  
who succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Cardas, (fnu), when  
the latter was transferred to the High War Academy about  
September 1949. (3) The deputy commander was Staff Cap-  
tain Hauer, (fnu), a Communist. The Education officer  
was Senior Lieutenant Najedly, (fnu), also a Communist.

Organization

4. The battalion was organized as follows: 25X1
  - a. 1st Inf Co, about 50 men, [redacted]
  - b. 2d Inf Co, about 60 men, [redacted]
  - c. 3rd Inf Co, about 15 men, [redacted]

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2

25X1

a guard detail was detached from the company to the Prichovice (N 50/L 02) ordnance depot.

d. Hv MG Co, about 50 men, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] commanded by Staff Captain Zacharda, (fnu).

e. SMG Co, about 80 men [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

f. AT Co, [redacted] com- 25X1

manded by Senior Lieutenant Holy, (fnu).

g. Medium Mort Co, commanded by Captain Gregor, (fnu).

h. Hv Mort, commanded by Major Benes, (fnu).

i. Tech Co, about 60 men, including infantry-engineers and infantry-signalmen, commanded by Lieutenant Brabec, (fnu), a Communist.

j. Hq Co, about 80 men, commanded by Staff Captain Hirsch, (fnu).

k. Repl Co, commanded by Staff Captain Tvrz, (fnu).

l. NCO Candidate School, about 100 men with Staff Captain Zacharda, (fnu), as school commandant.

5. The total personnel in the AT Co and the two Mort companies was approximately 160 men. These three companies were located in Bystrice, the Repl Co in Hamry (N 50/U 98) and the remainder of the battalion in Myrsko (4).

#### Weapons and Equipment

6. The 1st, 2d, and 3rd Inf Companies were equipped only with old rifles of unspecified make, and each rifle squad had a light machine gun model 13. The

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3

25X1

SMS Co was equipped with Beretta submachine guns, a new type of Czech submachine gun. The AT Co had 45-mm AT guns with rubber-tired wheels, and also mountain guns of unspecified type. The mortar companies possessed heavy and medium mortars of unspecified type.

7. The new type of Czech submachine gun carried an engraved inscription "Sche A-X 49".
8. German bazookas were also observed in the battalion. One flame thrower, on a two-wheeled cart, ejected a flame about twenty meters. Old German gas masks were used in the battalion.
9. The transport function of the battalion was performed by four RN-4 trucks, three Tatra passenger cars, and an unknown number of horses.

#### Training

10. Training within the battalion was limited exclusively to border defense practice exercises.

#### Comments.

(1) The existence of a Susice infantry division is believed unlikely, although there have been previous indications that the 3d Inf Brig had been made an **infantry** division. However, there are at present no indications that such a reorganization has been effected since all component units of the brigade have remained unchanged. The report confirms General Lomsky as CO of the 2d Inf Brig.

25X1

(2) Infantry unit [ ] is the 26th Inf Bn, which is thus confirmed in Kasperske Hory. Unit [ ] is probably the 25th Inf Bn in Klatovy. The Vinperk unit is the 66th Inf Bn which is subordinate to the Susice Inf Brig together with the 25th and 26th Bns.

25X1

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4

25X1.

(3) The report confirms Major Kocian as CO, 23rd Inf Bn.

(4) The statements on organization are correct, with the exception of those on the units in Bystrice [redacted] seemed not fully informed. The following units are believed stationed in Bystrice: inf gun co, as indicated by the mention of mountain guns; hv mort co; and hv wpns co with medium mortars and 45-mm AT guns.

25X1

25X1

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